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1936

Annual Report

AND

VITAL STATISTICS

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF KNUTSFORD.

BY

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

M.B., Ch.B.Vict., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.L.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District, and also for
the Rural District of Bucklow; Medical Adviser to the
Bucklow Joint Hospital Board: etc.

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Printed by J. W. JONES, Princess Street.

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The Urban District of Knutsford.

ANNUAL REPORT of Medical Officer of Health for 1936.

P A R T I.

Area of District, 2,491 Acres.

Height above Sea Level, 210 ft.

Estimated Population, 1935 : 6,300 (Registrar General).

Population, Census 1931 : 5,878.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,692.

Number of Working Class Houses, 1,284.

Rateable Value, £42,261.

Sum represented by a penny rate : Gross £176, Net £163.

Birth Rate per 1,000 living, 10.9.

General Birth Rate (England and Wales), 14.8.

Death Rate per 1,000 living, 8.5.

General Death Rate (England and Wales), 12.1.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth, 0.

Deaths under one year in proportion to 1,000 Births, 58.

" " " " " " " (England
and Wales), 59.

Deaths from Measles, 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough, 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years old), 0.

The Total Number of deaths from all causes was 54, of which 4 were children under one year old, and 27 were persons of over 65 years.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF OCCUPATIONS.

Private residents consisting of business people from the surrounding towns and cities, and persons who have retired from businesses and professions.

Persons employed in the building trades, general retail shop-keeping, hotel-keeping and agricultural workers. A laundry and a paper mill are the principal employers of labour in the District.

The social conditions are good, the District being partly residential.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1936.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Knutsford Urban District Council.*

FOREWORD

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN :

As this Report for 1936 is the twentieth I have had the honour of presenting to you, I am attempting a review of our present position in health matters, and of changes which have occurred in twenty years.

When I commenced as Medical Officer of Health on January 1st, 1917, I found evidence of the thoroughness and attention to detail for which my predecessor, Dr. Garstang, was respected by all who knew him, and Health work in Knutsford was of a high standard for those days. Routine Sanitary work, infectious hospital accommodation, swab examination and provision of serum, etc., were all in being.

During and since 1917 the following changes and additions have been made by or through the instrumentality of the Council :

- (a) A new Sewerage Scheme for practically the whole of the District.
- (b) A really safe and satisfactory supply of excellent Water is now provided and the former supply would never have been free from anxiety, although it is only fair, and really very interesting, to recall that in all the years it was used it never caused any case of infectious disease.
- (c) The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, staffed by local doctors, was inaugurated, and does excellent work. This work is by no means the only cause, probably it is not the chief cause, but it is a fact that of the number of deaths which do occur the majority are due to premature birth or congenital defects. An infant death from disease is now a rare thing.
- (d) An Ante-Natal Care Scheme is in operation and is conducted through the local medical profession. This method of operating such scheme is more and more being recognized as the best. While provision is made for specialists' advice in the very rare cases where it is necessary, there is no doubt that Ante-Natal Schemes staffed by specialists who see every patient as a total stranger, and who are not available for the confinement, must inevitably do more harm than good. Knutsford has had no case of lying-in fever since 1927, and no death from this disease since 1920. Maternal deaths from all causes are one in a thousand—the official figures for the country as a whole are about one in 250. This is not the place to discuss the subject, but this figure of one in 250 is obtained by methods of calculation which tend to exaggerate the real danger of child-bearing.
- (e) The Council pays medical practitioners for every swab they take from possible diphtheria cases. This gets many very doubtful cases swabbed which otherwise would not be, and amongst these, slight cases are discovered which, but for this, would have gone about infecting others. I consider this is the greatest advance in Public Health work, and I believe it is peculiar to Knutsford and my other district the Bucklow Rural. It really is nothing more than the use of common sense in the application of scientific knowledge. Its efficacy is proved by results. These results are much better than the figures in Table V would suggest, because those figures are swollen by cases from the Guardians' Institution, which of course gets cases from a very wide area including several large towns, in one of which diphtheria is just showing signs of the conclusion of an epidemic which has lasted for 4 years. In 1936, out of 6 cases

- in Table V only one was a non-institution case, and that one was very doubtful. In the last ten years, exclusive of institution cases, we have had 23 cases, and in the previous ten years we had 77.
- (f) Provision has been made for diphtheria swabs to be examined first by the microscope before the routine cultural method, and although the microscope is not quite so certain, it often does succeed, and when it does anything up to a day and a half is saved in the removal of a patient. This reduces the risk of infection of others and may make the difference between life and death to the sufferer. Knutsford has had no fatal case of diphtheria since 1922.
 - (g) The Diphtheria Immunization Scheme, worked through the local doctors, has succeeded in getting about one third of the children treated in the first year of its operation.
 - (h) The Council has arranged for the examination of sputum from pneumonia cases (what is known as "typing the sputum") and provides anti-pneumococci serum free in those cases where the examination suggests such would be helpful.
 - (i) The Council have a scheme for visiting infected houses during epidemics of measles and whooping cough. This is not easy to arrange in a town like Knutsford, because of the difficulty of having a suitable person immediately available for such very occasional employment, but we have kept it going. Under my advice these visitors have concentrated chiefly on inducing parents to take these often dangerous diseases more seriously and to call in medical advice. There is no doubt now that a much more larger proportion do receive medical treatment, and the results speak for themselves, thus:—In the 12 years 1913-24 there were 7 deaths from whooping cough and 8 from measles, whereas in the 12 years 1925-36 there were 2 deaths from whooping cough and none from measles. This amounts to having prevented 87 per cent. of the deaths caused by these two diseases.

The above record is one of which the Council may well be proud, and is certainly one which should earn the gratitude of the townspeople for whom they have worked. I am very happy to look back over the 20 years of my share in this work, and take this opportunity of thanking the Council and all its Officers for the courtesy, consideration and help I have received throughout this period.

Knutsford is a comparatively small Authority and I am a part-time Medical Officer of Health, but with a record such as the foregoing it is exasperating that the powers that be have now decided that when the periods of office of present part-time Medical Officers expire, neither Knutsford nor anywhere else will be able to have a Medical Officer of Health who is engaged in practice. This is a lamentable, expensive, and definitely retrograde step, but we are left to draw what consolation we can from the fact that these powers that be cannot find any local authority, from the smallest to the greatest, which has a whole-time Medical Officer, which provides all the above measures for the public health, or one which by the same and/or other methods has obtained better results.

This foreword is longer than I intended when I commenced writing. My excuse is that once started there seemed so many things too important to omit. I will conclude with more figures:

In the 10 years 1917-26, inclusive, there were 19 deaths due to scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles and whooping cough added together. In the 10 years 1927-1936, inclusive, there was only one death from all those same diseases.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

M.B., CH.B VICT., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.O.P.L.,
Medical Officer of Health,

PART II.—TABLES.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1936 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Gross Population. Nett Population estimated to Middle of each Year.		BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.	TRANSFER-ABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
						of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate per 1 000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1911	5983	5124	113	22.0	113	54	4	9	80	63	12.3
1912	6027	5168	96	18.6	120	57	4	9	94	67	13.0
1913	5831	5212	120	23.0	105	51	4	8	67	58	10.8
1914	5734	5223	104	19.9	97	44	9	11	106	62	11.6
1915	5379	4917	94	19.1	109	61	14	6	64	62	12.3
1916	5814	4892	88	18.0	142	43	5	4	45	61	12.1
1917	5814	4892	73	14.9	151	97	7	5	68	61	12.1
1918	For Birth-rate 5299		68	12.47	112	59	10	3	45	63	13.25
	For Death-rate 4754										
1919	For Birth-rate 5044		76	14.78	113	56	10	1	13	67	13.8
	For Death-rate 4842										
1920	5035		107	21.2	100	44	9	7	65	65	12.9
1921	5390		101	18.6	117	52	11	8	79	65	12.0
1922	5433		100	18.3	106	48	14	8	80	72	13.2
1923	5448		105	19.2	104	61	10	1	9	53	9.7
1924	5482		84	15.3	131	62	7	6	71	76	13.8
1925	5499		69	12.5	89	49	5	4	57	45	8.3
1926	5507		76	13.8	118	70	7	4	52	55	9.9
1927	5443		81	14.6	123	76	8	8	98	55	10.1
1928	4945		69	13.9	136	81	6	6	86	61	12.3
1929	5148		68	13.2	169	108	8	2	29	69	13.4
1930	5846		84	14.2	134	92	8	5	59	50	8.5
1931	5900		96	15.2	168	98	9	9	93	79	13.3
1932	5685		90	15.8	139	80	6	4	44	65	11.4
1933	5721		84	14.6	140	87	5	3	35	58	10.1
1934	5714		76	13.3	141	85	9	3	39	65	11.3
1935	5681		61	10.7	145	98	11	2	32	58	10.2
1936	6300		69	10.9	188	144	10	4	58	54	8.5

TABLE II.

Diseases notified under Acts and Orders during 1936.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						65 and upwards	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.		
Small-Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera - Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	3	..	2	1	..	..	6
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	44	5	34	2	3	..	..	43
Typhus Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever— Continued Fever...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polionmyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis...	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals.....	54	9	36	5	4	..	..	49

TABLE III.

Deaths Registered during the Calendar Year 1936, classified by age and cause.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Tot. Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'non-Residents' in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 & under 25 years	25 & under 45 years	45 & under 65 years	65 and upwards	
All Causes { Certified ... { Uncertified.	54 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134 0
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	16
Diabetes .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rheumatic Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ..	23	...	...	...	...	1	1	8	13	64
Bronchitis	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	19
Alcoholism .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Dis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Arterio-sclerosis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Dis- eases of Pregnancy and Parturition .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, includ- ing Premature Birth ..	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Suicide .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ..	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	11
Diseases ill-defined or un- known .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	54	4	...	2	...	2	3	16	27	134

1936. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Wks. & under 3 Months	3 Mths. & under 6 Months	6 Mths. & under 9 Months	9 Mths. & under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes {	Certified	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Uncertified	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria and Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Tuberculous Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Abdominal Tuberculosis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meuingitis (not Tuberculous) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pneumonia (all forms) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Diarrhœa .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gastritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Suffocation, overlying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atelectasis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Congenital Malformation	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	Premature Birth .....	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	2
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Other Causes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals		1	1	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	4

Nett Deaths " " " " —legitimate infants 4.

Still-births—legitimate 2, illegitimate, 0.

TABLE V.—Notifications of Infectious Diseases,
(No records prior to 1895.)

Year	Small-pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Phthisis	Oth'r forms of Tuber- culosis	Pneumonia	TOTAL
1895	...	17	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	21
1896	...	5	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	11
1897	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
1898	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	5
1899	...	62	...	3	1	2	...	...	...	68
1900	...	3	7	2	1	1	...	...	...	14
1901	...	7	5	2	...	1	...	...	...	15
1902	...	2	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	8
1903	4	7	6	1	1	6	...	...	...	25
1904	2	2	7	1	2	3	...	...	...	17
1905	...	2	4	2	2	4	...	...	...	14
1906	...	40	4	8	...	5	...	...	...	57
1907	...	52	4	6	1	1	...	...	...	64
1908	...	10	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	14
1909	...	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	9
1910	...	21	...	37	...	2	...	...	...	60
1911	...	20	...	8	1	...	6	...	...	35
1912	...	6	1	...	...	1	13	...	...	21
1913	...	1	4	1	1	2	11	7	...	27
1914	6	1	1	...	4	4	...	16
1915	...	9	4	1	...	3	6	6	...	29
1916	...	15	4	...	...	6	9	9	...	43
1917	...	39	3	1	...	1	10	2	...	56
1918	...	9	3	...	...	1	5	7	...	25
1919	...	10	3	1	1	1	8	3	...	27
1920	...	4	...	...	3	5	6	1	4	23
1921	...	23	4	1	1	...	7	4	7	47
1922	...	93	44	...	...	...	6	3	4	150
1923	...	24	7	...	...	2	4	1	2	41
1924	...	3	1	...	...	...	4	5	...	15
1925	...	5	19	...	...	...	6	1	...	32
1926	...	2	...	...	1	1	4	1	3	12
1927	...	6	1	...	1	2	4	5	10	30
1928	...	13	4	...	...	1	7	3	5	34
1929	...	11	1	...	...	...	2	3	9	26
1930	...	30	5	...	...	1	5	1	4	49
1931	...	31	4	...	...	1	5	2	2	46
1932	...	6	5	...	...	...	5	1	5	23
1933	...	9	2	...	...	1	6	4	5	27
1934	...	8	6	...	...	1	10	9	3	37
1935	...	10	13	...	...	...	5	2	1	31
1936	...	44	6	...	...	...	2	2	2	56

TABLE VI.

Deaths from Special Diseases.

Year	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Diarrhoea	Phthisis	Oth'r For's of Tuber- culosis	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	TOTAL
1895	2	..	4	..	..	..	6
1896	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	6
1897	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	1	..	..	..	10
1898	10	6	..	..	..	16
1899	2	1	1	4	..	1	..	9
1900	2	..	2	3	4	..	1	..	12
1901	2	2	..	3	2	..	..	..	9
1902	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	..	9
1903	1	2	..	3	2	..	..	..	8
1904	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	..	1	..	9
1905	3	..	1	3	..	1	..	8
1906	..	5	1	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	1	12
1907	..	1	1	..	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	8
1908	..	3	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	8
1909	2	..	..	..	2
1910	4	..	5	..	..	1	10
1911	5	1	3	2	..	..	..	11
1912	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	13
1913	4	3	..	..	7
1914	2	..	1	6	2	1	..	12
1915	2	..	..	3	3	..	..	8
1916	1	..	..	1	4	1	..	..	7
1917	1	..	..	1	4	1	..	..	7
1918	..	4	..	1	..	..	2	2	3	..	..	12
1919	2	6	3	..	..	11
1920	1	..	..	8	..	2	..	11
1921	1	3	3	..	..	7
1922	2	3	1	..	..	6	1	..	..	13
1923	6	1	..	1	8
1924	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	9
1925	1	..	1	..	..	2
1926	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	6
1927	1	..	..	1
1928	3	..	..	..	3
1929	1	2	1	..	..	4
1930	5	1	..	..	6
1931	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	4
1932	3	1	..	..	4
1933	3	..	..	..	3
1934	5	1	..	..	6
1935	4	..	..	..	4
1936	2	..	..	..	2

TABLE VIII.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Tabular Statement of the Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended
December 31st, 1936.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KNUTSFORD.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.	Numbers	B Number of Notices served		C Result of Notices Served			
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions Instituted	Prosecutions Pending
1. Dwelling Houses	53	9	10	10	...	...	...
2. Cellar Dwellings	None	in District	...	...	...	...	...
3. Back-to-Back Houses ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Courts, Yards, Passages, etc.	36	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Privy-Middens, Pails or Earth Closets	10	...	1	1	...	...	...
7. Ashbins	175	0	39	37	...	...	...
8. House Drainage	47	...	6	6	...	...	...
9. Ditches, Watercourses, 48. Samples of Water, 0	48	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Offensive Accumulations	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A. 1875. Section 91 (3) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Offensive Trades	None	in District	...	...	...	...	...
13. a. Slaughterhouses (Public)	None	in District	...	...	...	...	...
" (Private)	186	...	2	2	...	...	...
b. Other Places where Food is produced or sold	104	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Piggeries	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Cesspools ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. a. Dairies	52	...	...	...	...	...	...
b. Cowsheds	26	...	1	...	...	...	...
c. Milk Shops	26	...	...	...	...	...	...
17. a. Factories	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
b. Workshops	48	...	...	...	...	...	...
c. Workplaces	28	...	...	...	...	...	...
d. Outworkers' Premises	None	in District	...	...	...	...	...
18. Bakehouses (Overground)	39	...	2	...	...	...	...
" (Underground)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Common Lodging Houses	None	in District	...	...	...	...	...
20. Houses Let in Lodgings ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Smoke Observations	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Canal Boats	None	in District	...	...	...	...	...
23. Infectious Diseases	48	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Milk Samples (Biological Test) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Miscellaneous	520	...	12	12	...	...	...
Totals	1477	9	73	68	...	...	...

TABLE IX.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

New houses erected during the year :—

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	25
By Knutsford U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	2

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR,

- (1) *a.* Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 53
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose... 87

- (2) *a.* Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 12
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose... 24

- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 15

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority 10

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWER DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sects. 17, 18, and 23, Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | 9 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | | | |
| | (a) by owners | ... | ... | 9 |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | 0 |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | | | |
| | (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

C. Proceedings under Sects. 19 and 20 of Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the room or tenement having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

TABLE X.**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1936, for the Urban District of Knutsford.**

On the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspct'ns</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>	<i>Prosecut'ns</i>
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	12	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	48	...	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	28	...	...
Total	88	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Number of Defects

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of Prosecut'ns</i>
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness
Want of ventilation
Overcrowding
Want of Drainage of Floors
Other nuisances
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient
Unsuitable or defective
Not separate for sexes
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s 101)
Other Offences
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Work- shops Transfers of Powers Order, 1921.)	—	—	—	—
Total

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES. SECTION 108.
None in the District.

(Signed) ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

The Urban District of Knutsford.

PART III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER.

The district is supplied with water by the Knutsford Light and Water Co., who buy from the Manchester Corporation. The water is soft with a low solidity and is of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity. It has not been considered necessary to take samples of this water during the year. The water mains are flushed periodically and a fairly good pressure is maintained throughout the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All the sewage from the Urban District is carried by gravitating sewers to the Disposal Works, where the treatment has been carried out quite satisfactorily during the past year. Five samples of the effluent have been taken by Inspectors of the Mersey & Irwell Rivers Board, and the analysis has shown same to be of good quality.

During the year a new connecting length of sewer has been laid from the western intercepting sewer in Bexton Road to the sewer in Cranford Avenue. This was made necessary owing to the sluggish nature of the sewer in Bexton Road, which was found to be the cause of the flooding of cellars, after heavy rain, of the houses in Cranford Avenue.

During the year all the manholes on the sewerage system have been thoroughly cleansed, and the sewers periodically flushed. Attention has been drawn to the Management of the Waterproof Paper Company re the unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at the Booth Mill, and they have promised to install an up-to-date system of drainage in the near future.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING.

All ashbins and pail closets are cleansed weekly, a number of bins at the hotels and large shops being emptied twice weekly. The only ashpits in the district are at the Egerton Schools and the Waterproof Paper Company, neither of which are used for the storage of any objectionable refuse.

The following is a summary of the present position :

Water Closets	... .. 2288	Slop Water Closets	... .. 140
Pail Closets	... .. 22	Midden Closets	... .. 1
Dry Ashpits	... .. 2	Ashbins	... .. 1954

Month.	Number of refuse receptacles emptied :—				Total
	Dustbins.	Pail Closets.	Garden and Trade Refuse.		
January..	... 1730	..... 8	..... 13	.....	1751
February ..	1730	..... 8	..... 6	.....	1744
March...	1630	..... 8	..... 8	.....	1746
April ...	1932	..... 22	..... 11	.....	1965
May ...	1932	..... 22	..... 4	.....	1953
June ...	1932	..... 22	..... 5	.....	1959
July ...	1932	..... 22	..... 4	.....	1953
August ...	1932	..... 22	..... 3	.....	1957
September ..	1934	..... 22	..... 2	.....	1958
October ...	1934	..... 22	..... 11	.....	1967
November ..	1934	..... 22	..... 1	.....	1957
December ...	1934	..... 22	..... 1	.....	1957
	22586	222	69		22877

The six pail closets and the one midden closet now remaining are at outlying places where it is not possible to connect with the sewage system.

Scavenging is carried out on modern lines, a dustless removal motor vehicle being employed. The refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on the Moor, and good progress is being made of the reclaiming of what was once a swamp for use as a recreation ground.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Little or no nuisance is experienced from smoke owing to the absence of factories in the district. There are only five large chimney stacks in the district, and it has only been necessary to complain of one of these during the year. As a result of negotiation with the owner the defaulting chimney was lengthened by some ten or twelve feet, which has remedied the complaint.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

No nuisances have arisen in respect of Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., there being only one permanent caravan in the district.

The pitching of tents, caravans, etc., on the small Heath is now kept under very strict control, and little or no nuisance now arises.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

The Council's Cemetery at Tabley Hill, which has been in use for 33 years, provides sufficient burial space for several generations.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the Schools are above suspicion as to the cause of infectious disease. The lavatories and closets are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and all Elementary Schools are disinfected during the summer holidays.

Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of new school buildings in the area, one school to be erected by the County Education Authority and one by the Church of England.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

Visits which were made to the upholsterers in the district have not revealed any unclean flock being used in the manufacture of upholstery.

DISINFECTIONS.

49 premises have been disinfected during the year, of which 46 were after removal of cases of infectious disease and 2 were on account of filth. The 46 dis-infections after infectious disease entailed the stoving of 29 houses, 1 hotel, 4 wards in the Knutsford Institution, 12 rooms at Children's Homes.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the general inspection of the district three premises were found to be infected with bugs, two of which were in a very bad condition. The infected bedding was destroyed and the whole of the premises thoroughly disinfected and sprayed. Very satisfactory results are recorded, there being no trace of bugs since the premises were re-opened.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY, ETC.

Under the Review of Districts Order, 1936, five additional farms were brought into the Urban District; these appear to be in satisfactory order, a complete new shippon having been erected at one of the farms during the year.

The sampling of milk for biological purposes is now undertaken by the County Council Veterinary Staff. The quality of milk sold and produced in the area still continues to be good.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops in the area have been visited at various times during the year, and continue to be kept in a satisfactory manner.

The following is a summary of the people on the Register :—

Wholesale Producers	...	...	...	5
Cowkeepers and Purveyors	...	...	...	11
Purveyors	...	...	...	20
				<hr/> 36

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 14 butchers' shops in the area, and these are inspected periodically. The meat, etc., exposed for sale has always appeared of good quality.

There is a large quantity of meat imported into the area by butchers from outside areas, and this has perhaps affected the number of animals slaughtered in the district during the last year. Four butchers from the Northwich district have slowly built up a good connection in the town, visiting Knutsford as often as three or four days per week.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The following is a summary of the animals slaughtered in the district during the year :—

Beef	...	...	...	240
Mutton	...	...	...	1020
Pork	...	...	...	105
Veal	...	...	...	31
				<hr/> 1396

The majority of the above were inspected in the Slaughterhouses, and were generally of good quality. There are 6 licensed Slaughterhouses in the district which are all well-appointed and kept in good condition.

The Council have issued 8 licenses to local butchers under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 12 Bakehouses in use in the district. These premises have been inspected periodically during the year, and notices requesting the occupiers to lime-wash the walls have been served at stated periods, and as occasion has required. The premises have been kept clean generally, and have been limewashed in accordance with the regulations.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Twenty-six sessions were held at the Centre during the year. 86 children made 533 attendances, giving an average attendance of 25 per session.

The Health Visitor has paid 54 first and 270 subsequent visits to expectant mothers, 246 visits to children under one year old, and 1,553 visits to children between one and five years.

ANTE-NATAL CARE.

The Ante-Natal Care scheme has now been in operation for 2 years. The facilities offered under it have not been taken advantage of to the extent which is desirable, but this is gradually being rectified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious diseases call for no special comment. Notifications in Table V include many cases from the Institution.

PNEUMONIA.

As regards acute lobar pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia the Council have arranged that doctors may send (at the Council's expense) sputum from these cases to Dr. Jenkins, the Pathologist of the Salford Royal Hospital, to be examined as to the type of pneumococcus which is the cause in that particular patient. In cases where the cause is found to be Type 1 pneumococcus, the doctor can obtain free serum for treatment at the Council Offices.

TUBERCULOSIS.

For figures see Tables. The Tuberculosis Register on December 31st, 1936, showed 47 cases as follows :—

Pulmonary cases	.....	Males, 12	...	Females, 9
Non-pulmonary cases	...	Males, 15	...	Females, 11

Notification continues satisfactory.

CANCER.

Full facilities are available in Manchester for treatment by radium, etc.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

During the year the following animals have been slaughtered under this Order :
3 Milch Cows from the Bucklow Rural District.

All the carcasses were found to be infected with tuberculosis, and were destroyed under Police supervision.

No person suffering from tuberculosis was found engaged in food production or distribution.

The number of animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order in the Urban District has been reduced to a minimum during the last two years. The Veterinary Staff of the County Council do not bring in to the slaughter-houses in the District any animals which are likely to be condemned. These are taken straight to the Knackers' Yard for slaughtering.

HOUSING ACT, 1935.—SURVEY OF OVERCROWDING.

In accordance with the requirements of the above Act a survey was made of all the working-class houses in the district. The total number of houses found to be overcrowded at the time of the survey was 31.

A number of these cases have already been remedied, and the Council have decided to proceed with a small housing scheme to relieve the remaining cases.

Detailed particulars of the survey have already been forwarded to the Ministry.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION (Infectious).

This is unchanged and really excellent.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Adequate and unchanged.

LOCAL ACTS.—None.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Acts adopted are :—

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Acts, Parts II and III ;

P.H.A. Amendment Act, 1890 ;

and P.H.A. 1875, section 112, as amended by section 51 of P.H.A.

Amendment Act, 1907, P.H.A. Amendment Act, 1890.

Parts II and III Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is most efficiently carried on by the two District Nurses, who are employed by a Voluntary Committee.

MIDWIVES.

The only Midwives are the two District Nurses—both C.M.B.

GENERAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

In addition to the Infirmary at the Institution of the Public Assistance Committee, the needs of the district are very adequately supplied by the Knutsford Cottage Hospital, the Altrincham General Hospital, and large General and Special Hospitals of Manchester. There is an excellent Orthopædic Department at Altrincham Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council undertake the removal of any patient requiring ambulance facilities by arrangement with the Northwich St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

The Council accept the liability for payment of the Ambulance Account, and recover same from the patient. This service appears to work quite admirably.

SANITARY STAFF.

This is unchanged. I wish to express my appreciation of and thanks for the work of Mr. Butler, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, who has assisted in the compilation of this Report.

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

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